

Remarks

In the present response, claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

Claims Rejections: 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 6,217,351 (Fung). These rejections are traversed.

The rejected claims recite one or more elements not taught or even suggested in Fung. Some examples are provided below.

As one example, independent claim 1 recites that the multiple-connector apparatus is a single tray that includes multiple connectors. Claim 3 recites that the port connector apparatus is a single tray that includes a plurality of port connectors. Claim 5 recites a single tray that includes a plurality of port connectors, and claim 7 recites a single connector tray having a plurality of port connectors.

In contrast to claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, Fung teaches an adaptor module having a pair of receiving connectors. Each connector only has one port. Figure 8 in Fung shows an adaptor module 100 having two separate connectors 170 and 172. These connectors are separately actionable, and each connector only has one port.

Anticipation under section 102 can be found only if a single reference shows exactly what is claimed (see *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 778 F.2d 775, 227 U.S.P.Q. 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985)). For at least these reasons, claims 1-5 and 7 are not anticipated by Fung.

Claims Rejections: 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 14-17 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 6,290,517 (Anderson). These rejections are traversed.

The rejected claims recite one or more elements not taught or even suggested in Anderson. Some examples are provided below.

As one example, claim 14 recites that the multiple-connector apparatus is push activated to eject through the aperture to expose multiple connectors for simultaneously connecting plural peripheral device. Anderson does not teach or suggest this recitation.

Anderson teaches a fold out port that is “hingedly attached to the computer and pivots between a first, stored position and a second, extended position” (see Abstract). Nowhere does Anderson teach or even suggest that the port is “push activated to eject through an aperture” as recited in claim 14.

For a prior art reference to anticipate under section 102, every element of the claimed invention must be identically shown in a single reference (see *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990)). For at least these reasons, claims 14-17 are not anticipated by Anderson.

Claims Rejections: 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 8, 9, and 11-13 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,975,927 (Giles). These rejections are traversed.

Each of the rejected claims recites one or more elements that are not taught or suggested in Giles. These missing elements show that the differences between the combined teachings in the art and the recitations in the claims are great. As such, the pending claims are not a predictable variation of the art to one of ordinary skill in the art.

As one example, independent claim 8 recites a connector tray having first and second portions. The claim then recites that the second portion pivots relative to the first portion when the first and second portions are released and in the extended position. Claim 11 recites pivoting the second portion relative to the first portion when the multiple-connector tray is in the extended position to render the plural connectors accessible. Giles does not teach or even suggest these recitations.

Figures 2A – 2C in Giles illustrate how the connector 28 pivotally moves between an open and closed position. As shown in Fig. 2C, once the connector 28 is pivoted to an extended position, the connector remains stationary. No second portion pivots relative to the first portion.

Giles fails to teach a second portion on its connector. Giles also fails to teach pivoting of a second portion when the connector is extended. These missing elements show that the differences between the teachings in Giles and the recitations in the claims are great. As such, the pending claims are not a predictable variation of the art to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claims Rejections: 35 USC § 103(a)

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,975,927 (Giles) in view of USPN 6,217,350 (Johnson). This rejection is traversed.

As explained above with respect to independent claim 8, Giles fails to teach or suggest all of the elements. Johnson fails to cure these deficiencies. Thus for at least the reasons provided in connection with independent claim 8, dependent claim 10 is allowable over Giles in view of Johnson.

Claims Rejections: 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,290,517 (Anderson). These rejections are traversed.

As explained above with respect to independent claim 14, Anderson fails to teach or suggest all of the elements. Claims 18-20 depend from independent claim 14. Thus for at least the reasons provided in connection with independent claim 14, dependent claims 18-20 are allowable over Anderson.

Claims Rejections: 35 USC § 103(a)

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,217,351 (Fung) in view of USPN 6,217,350 (Johnson). This rejection is traversed.

As explained above with respect to independent claim 5, Fung fails to teach or suggest all of the elements. Johnson fails to cure these deficiencies. Thus for at least the reasons provided in connection with independent claim 5, dependent claim 6 is allowable over Fung in view of Johnson.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

Hewlett-Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

Respectfully submitted,

/Philip S. Lyren #40,709/

Philip S. Lyren
Reg. No. 40,709
Ph: 832-236-5529